

of any of these * roving commissions " she beat them The investigators sent out by the Commission were men and women selected for a task of genuine investigation, independent of their social and political opinions " They were most of them young, exceedingly keen, and highly competent their reports had extensive personal observation as well as statistics and documents behind them These reports proved in many cases, revolutionary, for the individuals who made them, the work, in nearly every case, gave a decisive turn both to their opinions and to their careers Among them were Tom Jones, Cyril Jackson Ethel Williams, Rose Squire, Constance Williams, Marion Phillips, Arthur Steel-Maitland, and Dr J Me Vail The subject of the first enquiry was suggested by the Charity Organisation Society members, (C S Loch, Mrs Bosanquet, Octavia Hill and Hancock Nunn) the effect of Out-Door Relief on Wages and the Conditions of Employment This enquiry lasted two years, and covered the whole country Its result surprised those who had pressed for the investigation, since it was to the effect that since there was practically no systematic Out-Door Relief to men, the notion of a rate in aid of wages/' stressed by J S Davy, and the COS, fell to the ground The section on women's wages in London was particularly impressive "Our investigation has convinced us that, whilst Out-Relief aggravates most evils, it is, in itself, a relatively unimportant influence in comparison with other forces at work, and that its withdrawal would hardly raise the level of women's

wages in London "

Later, the investigators drive their conclusion home—

"The primary causes of 'sweating' are the poverty, domestic afflictions, and physical infirmities of the workers, leading to industrial inefficiency, and an incapacity to earn a normal wage. Low wages in turn perpetuate low earning power, and a vicious circle is established. The rates paid are of secondary importance, compared with these primary disabilities